REMARKS

Applicants gratefully note that the prior art rejections of claims 10-26 and 28-34 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,173,714 to Nomura et al. ("Nomura") have been withdrawn in view of the arguments presented in the response filed May 5, 2008.

The Examiner, however, has found still another new reference, JP2000-232541, to Yajima Shunsuke and Nomura Tatsuo ("Shunsuke"), and now rejects claims 10-26 and 28-34 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by this reference.

First, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the finality of the pending Action.

The Examiner states that he is raising "a new ground of rejection." This new ground is not presented because of art newly cited by Applicants, or in response to a limitation introduced into the claims in the previous Amendment. Therefore, under MPEP §706.07, a final rejection is premature. Citing new art in a final Action under these circumstances does not give Applicants "a full and fair hearing" to which they are "entitled," nor does it provide for the development of "a clear issue between the applicant and Examiner, if possible, before an Appeal." (MPEP §706.07).

The foregoing amendments in claims 10, 16, 18, 20, 26 and 28 are intended to define the invention in a manner that more clearly points out the differences between the present invention and the prior art of record.

Independent claim 10 is amended to include the subject matter previously appearing in claim 13. Claim 13 is accordingly cancelled.

Independent claims 20 and 26 are amended to include subject matter found in the specification at page 36, line 18 to page 37, line 21.

Independent claim 28 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 30, which is accordingly cancelled.

New independent claims 35 and 36 are added to present the subject matter of claims 10 and 14 and 10 and 17, respectively. Accordingly, claims 14 and 17 are also cancelled. Claim 18 is now dependent on new claim 36.

Independent claim 19 is cancelled.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 10-26 and 28-34 under 35 USC 102(e) as fully anticipated by Shunsuke. Shunsuke is cited as disclosing independent scanner and printer units, each unit with its own display, that can be combined into a single apparatus. Shunsuke described a "status management means" to control the display of the status of the printer and scanner on the scanner and printer displays. However, these displays as described in Shunsuke at the cited paragraphs [0042]-[0045] do not describe the present invention as defined by the amended claims now pending.

With respect to claim 10, the claims defines an image processing apparatus characterized in having the following features or arrangements (i) and (ii):

(i) in a combined use of the printer unit and the scanner unit, the display section of the printer unit is set to be effective if a predetermined condition is satisfied, and if not, only the display section of the scanner unit is set to be effective in displaying information regarding the combined use of the printer unit and the scanner unit; and

(ii) the predetermined condition is that information displayed on the printer unit is different from information regarding the combined use of the printer unit and the scanner unit.

With this arrangement as defined by claim 10, information regarding use of the printer unit and the scanner unit is displayed on a display section (main display section) of the scanner unit, and information other than the information regarding use of the printer unit and the scanner unit (for example date/time, character, and the like) is displayed on a display section (sub display section) of the printer unit.

From a user's point of view, this arrangement requires the user to pay attention only to the display section of the scanner unit in order to check information regarding use of the printer unit and the scanner unit, and to pay attention only to the display section of the printer unit in order to check information other than the information regarding the use of the printer unit and the scanner unit. Therefore, a user can easily check the information different from the information regarding the use of the printer unit and the scanner unit.

With respect to the invention as defined by claim 35, the claimed image processing apparatus is characterized as having the features or arrangements of (i) as stated above, and the following feature (iii):

(iii) a predetermined condition is that some failure has occurred in a unit (including an optional unit and a scanner unit) to be used in combination with the printer unit, and the display control section of the printer unit controls the display section of the printer unit to display a state of the failure occurred in the unit.

As defined by claim 35, information regarding use of the printer unit and the scanner unit is displayed on the display section (main display section) of the scanner unit, and if a failure occurs to an optional unit (scanner, paper feeding unit, paper output unit, and the like) that is to be used in combination with the printer unit, the display section (sub-display section) of the printer unit displays the state of the failure, not the display section of the scanner unit.

From a user's point of view, this arrangement requires the user to pay attention only to the display section of the scanner unit in order to check information regarding use of the printer unit and the scanner unit, and to pay attention only to the display section of the printer unit in order to check information regarding a failure that has occurred in the optional unit. Therefore, a user can easily check the information regarding a failure that has occurred in the optional unit.

With respect to the invention as defined by claim 36, the claimed image processing apparatus is characterized by having the feature or arrangement stated above as (i), and the following feature or arrangement (iv):

(iv) a predetermined condition is that a failure has occurred in the scanner unit, and the display control section of the printer unit controls the display section of the printer unit to display a state of the scanner unit.

As defined by claim 36, information regarding use of the printer unit and the scanner unit is displayed on a display section (main display section) of the scanner unit, and in a case where a failure occurs to the scanner unit, the display section (sub-display section) of the printer unit displays the state of the scanner unit, not the display section of the scanner unit.

From a user's point of view, this arrangement requires the user to pay attention only to the display section of the scanner unit in order to check information regarding use of the printer unit and the scanner unit, and to pay attention only to the display section of the printer unit in order to check information regarding a state of the scanner unit in which the failure has occurred. Therefore, a user can easily check the information regarding a state of the scanner unit in which the failure has occurred.

Shunsuke

Paragraphs [0040] to [0048] of Shunsuke, suggest:

(A) basically, information of a scanner unit and information of a printer unit are displayed on a display section of the scanner unit; and

(B) in a case where there is a need to display information of the printer unit (this information is referred to also as "trouble information of the printer") while the scanner unit is in operation, the information of the printer is displayed on a display section of the printer.

However, Shunsuke does not disclose or suggest any of the above features (ii), (iii), or (iv). More specifically, in Shunsuke, the information to be displayed in the display section of the printer unit is only the information of the printer unit (paragraph [0048]), and there are no descriptions that information other than the information of the printer unit is to be displayed in the display section of the printer unit. Therefore, Shunsuke teaches an arrangement opposite to the features of (ii), (iii), and (iv) where the display section of the printer unit displays the information other than the information of the printer unit.

According to Shunsuke, information of the printer unit (more specifically, trouble information of the printer unit) is displayed in the display section of the scanner unit when the scanner unit is not in operation, and information of the printer unit is displayed in the display section of the printer unit when the scanner is in operation (paragraph [0048]), Fig. 11).

That is to say, the information of the printer unit is displayed in one of the display section of the scanner unit and the display section of the printer unit, depending on the situation. Therefore, the display section that displays the information of the printer unit is not fixed. As a result, the user must pay attention to both the display sections of the scanner unit and the printer unit. Checking of the displayed contents becomes troublesome, which is the problem solved by the present invention.

In comparison, with the arrangement of claim 10 of the present application, the display section which displays the information different from the information regarding the combined use of the printer unit and the scanner unit (for example, date/time, character, and the like) is fixed. The problem of Shunsuke does not occur. In the arrangement defined by claim 35, the display section which displays the information regarding the failure that has occurred to the optional unit is fixed. The problem of Shunsuke does not occur. Furthermore, with the arrangement defined by claim 36, the display section which displays the information regarding a state of the scanner unit in which a failure has occurred is fixed. The problem of Shunsuke does not occur.

With respect to claims 20, the invention is characterized in that when an operation input is entered to a specific user interface section, contents corresponding to the operation input are displayed on another user interface section. Thus, the contents displayed on the another user interface section corresponds to the contents input by the user to the specific user interface section. The user can easily recognize the contents displayed. As a result, no confusion occurs. (See lines 4 to 21 of page 37 of the specification).

Moreover, in claims 26 and 28 the image processing apparatus includes first user interface section and second user interface section. When a command for selecting a specific processing is entered from the second user interface section, the first user interface section is made effective to display on the first user interface section the content regarding the specific processing. Thus, the contents displayed on the first user interface section corresponds to the contents input to the second user interface section. The user can easily recognize the contents displayed. As a result, no confusion occurs. (See lines 4 to 21 of page 37 of the specification.)

In comparison, Shunsuke does not teach or suggest that contents corresponding to a matter received as a command from one user interface is to be displayed on another user interface section. Paragraphs [0040] to [0048] of Shunsuke describe the features noted above as (A) and (B), however Shunsuke has no teaching of the distinctive features of claims 20, 26 and 28 as also discussed above.

The PTO-1449 form attached to the Office Action sent on August 25, 2005 includes listed documents that do not have the initials indicating that the Examiner has considered the references cited in that form. Applicants request an indication that all the cited art has been considered and will be listed on any patent that may issue on this application.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant urge that the pending claims define clear cut patentable differences over the art of record and that this application is otherwise in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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